

(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property
Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
10 February 2005 (10.02.2005)

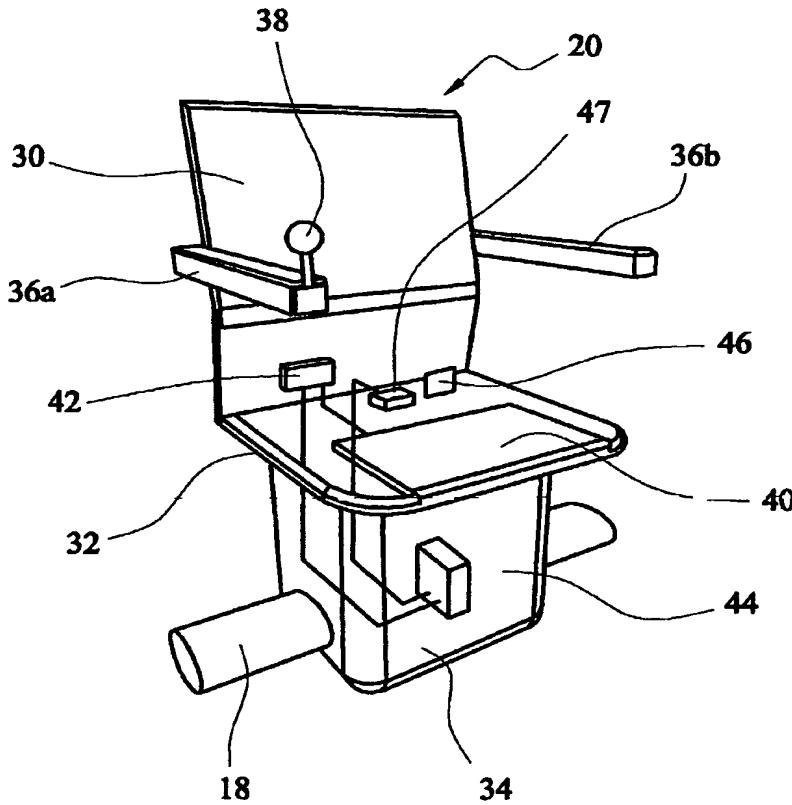
PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2005/012153 A3

- (51) International Patent Classification⁷: **B66B 9/08**
- (21) International Application Number:
PCT/GB2004/003249
- (22) International Filing Date: 27 July 2004 (27.07.2004)
- (25) Filing Language: English
- (26) Publication Language: English
- (30) Priority Data:
0317615.3 28 July 2003 (28.07.2003) GB
- (71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): STANNAH STAIRLIFTS LIMITED [GB/GB]; Watt Close, East Portway, Andover, Hampshire SP10 3SD (GB).
- (72) Inventors; and
- (75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): TITCHENER, Nigel [GB/GB]; 23, Abbots Ann, Andover, Hampshire
- SP11 7BG (GB). FOSTER, David, Henry [GB/GB]; 1, Thorn Court, Four Marks, Alton, Hampshire GU34 5BY (GB).
- (74) Agent: GALLAFENT, Antony, Xavier; Urquhart-Dykes & Lord LLP, Alexandra House, 1 Alexandra Road, Swansea SA1 5ED (GB).
- (81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NA, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.
- (84) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available): ARIPO (BW, GH,

[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: IMPROVEMENTS IN OR RELATING TO STAIRLIFTS



(57) Abstract: The present invention enhances the safety of a stairlift by providing a proximity sensor (40, 42) to detect the proximity of users and other objects to a stairlift carriage (20) and to render remote call controls (22, 24) inoperative. A chair occupancy sensor may also be provided to prevent inadvertent operation of the main user control (38) when a user is mounting, or dismounting from, the stairlift.

WO 2005/012153 A3



GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, NA, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

— before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments

(88) Date of publication of the international search report:
24 March 2005

Published:

— with international search report

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.